



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

October 11, 2001

Dear Permit Holder:

A workshop is planned for October 25, 2001 in Woods Hole, Massachusetts to review ways of collecting better, more timely, and precise information about where, how, and what commercial fishermen are catching off the Northeastern United States. NMFS hopes to draw upon expertise from a wide spectrum of the commercial fleet, so fishermen are being invited and encouraged to help evaluate what's been done elsewhere and how it might be used to fit needs in the Northeast.

Workshops conducted last winter and spring identified interest by industry, scientists and managers in developing additional pilot projects to test the feasibility of study fleets based on electronic reporting of position and catch data. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss case histories of study fleets that are operational elsewhere in the USA and Canada, and to explore technology options. Experts familiar with specific applications as well as individuals developing appropriate technologies will provide a series of presentations of their work, and participate in panel discussions. These discussions will be vital to the development of plans for additional study fleet pilot projects for Northeast Fisheries.

The one-day workshop will have discussions on existing programs that use electronic monitoring and reporting to provide data to scientists and managers, elements comprising "study fleets," how study fleet data can and ought to be used, and what technology will be needed to make it work. Question and answer sessions are to be part of each panel discussion.

The principle of study fleets is to gather detailed, high-quality information from a small, representative sample of the fleet rather than polling the whole fleet. While a study fleet would not necessarily eliminate required reporting for those outside the study fleet, it could reduce the amount of information included in required reports.

Registration for the workshop is not required. It will begin at 9AM and run until at least 5PM. Your participation in all or part of the program is welcomed. Whitman Auditorium is located near the end of Water Street in Woods Hole on the campus of the Marine Biological Laboratory. Please be advised that parking in Woods Hole is limited.

The workshop and pilot program are funded by the Research Partners Program, a federal project to directly involve fishermen in gathering data used to manage New England fisheries.

For more information or questions, please contact either Steve Murawski at 508-495-2303 or myself (Earl Meredith) at 978-281-9276. Hope to see you on October 25th!

Sincerely,

Earl Meredith

Earl Meredith, Ph.D., Acting Director, Research Partners Program



Study Fleet and Electronic Reporting Workshop

October 25, 2001

Whitman Auditorium, Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Agenda

Session I: 9:00 am

Welcome - Northeast Fisheries Science Center Director - Dr. Mike Sissenwine

Case Histories of Fisheries Using Electronic Reporting/Monitoring to Support Science/Management

- a. Steve Kocsis (Alaska Region, NMFS) - 9:00-9:30 - Alaska Groundfish Fisheries
- b. Gene Proulx (SE Region, NMFS) - 9:30-10:00 - Western Pacific Tuna and Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fisheries

Coffee break - 10:00-10:30

- c. Michael Eagles (DFO, Halifax) 10:30-11:00 - Maritimes Snow Crab Fisheries
- d. Rick Methot (NW Center) - 11:00-11:30 - West Coast Groundfish Fisheries
- e. Frank Bub (UMass-Dartmouth) 11:30-12:00 - Cod Fishery Study Fleets - Great South Channel

Lunch

Session II: 1:15

Technology options for monitoring and reporting vessel activity and catches

- a. Rich Arnold 1:15-1:45 Thistle Marine's Experiences
- b. Steve Pace 1:45-2:15 Hand-Held Technologies for Marine Operations Monitoring
- c. Linda Galvin (NMFS) 2:15-2:45 - NE Scallop and Groundfish Fleets

Coffee Break

Session III: 3:00

Panel Discussion on: *Elements of Study Fleets - Data Collection and Use* 3:00-4:00

Session IV:

Panel Discussion on: *Technology Solutions* 4:00-5:00